



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church December, 2009 'Newsletter'

### A Legend of Light (from India)

We have been told there is an age-old custom in India that when dusk descends upon the many primitive villages, lamps must be lighted in the rude shelters which the villagers call home. These lamps must be placed where their light will serve to guide the traveled, to keep away wild animals, and to enable those nearby to see scorpions, centipedes and death-dealing cobras. Perhaps this custom was born of the telling of an old legend—the Legend of the Moon and the Candle, which is especially beautiful for us to consider at Christmas time when God sent his Son to be the Light of the World.

The legend tells that one night, while the silver moon was sailing proudly through the evening sky in all her radiant beauty, she looked down and saw a tiny candle burning dimly in a little cottage by the side of the road. How disdainful of such a small light she felt!

"Little Candle," she called, "why do you bother to shine? Surely you know your light is very dim; so dim that few people can see it. You have no excuse for shining. Look at me! I light the whole world."

The little Candle looked up at the glorious moon and her flame twinkled a bit as her answer came sweetly through the night.

"Yes, beautiful Moon," she answered, "it is true that you shed a light over all the whole world, but there are still many shadowy places." The little Candle paused a moment and then continued---

"Beautiful Moon," she said, "have you ever thought that you are not really giving of yourself? You are just the reflection of another and greater light. I am only a small light, that is true, but I give my own light, and burn my life away to serve mankind!"

This beautiful legend seems quite appropriate as we think of Jesus, our Savior, who came to bring light into the world, that we might not walk in darkness, but have the light of the glorious Gospel.

As the moon reflects the light of the sun, we may reflect the light of Jesus---but it is as we are willing to share the light we know with those who walk in darkness, even if it means sacrifice of self---that we find the true light of the cross!

Mattie B. Shannon



### Now the Real Work for the Lord Begins

At the special Congregational Meeting on November 15 the new Missional Plan for St. Paul's Lutheran Church was approved by a unanimous vote. Now the real work for the Lord begins!

This is not a plan that will be placed on a shelf or in a file cabinet and forgotten. As a congregation we have set forth challenging goals that will call on every one of us to do our part. The plan calls for increases in active participation by current members in all aspects of the life of the church. It also calls for us to reach out to others in the community to increase our total membership. We do this not for our own sake alone, but most importantly to bring God's Word and God's love into the lives of others.

We will also be moving forward in exciting new ways in youth and music ministry, in worship, in community and world service, and in stewardship.

New brochures and changes on our website will soon proclaim the new tag line for St. Paul's, Proclaiming Christ, Uplifting People at the Crossroads. Our mission statement will be displayed prominently: "To serve Christ by being a faithful, caring, uplifting community of believers, by sharing God-given resources with the people of Gaylord and the world, and by reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ."

These words will remind us that the real work for the Lord begins for us anew each day.

THE  
PASTOR'S  
CORNER

### November Worship Attendance

Nov. 1	62
8	52
15	35
22	60
29	40
Nov. 25	70 Thanksgiving Eve



Thanks to the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the fine reception and a great offering for the Gideons. For support to the work of the Gideons, \$109.00 was collected after the worship service November 8, towards the purchase of Bibles. Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.

Gideon Representative, Roger Lietz

Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, is the last day you can give a donation for the disadvantaged families in Sibley County. Donations can be dropped off at the Sibley County Human Services between 8:00-4:30 pm.

**Thankofferings** are given in thanksgiving to God--- who blesses us to be a blessing to others. The special Thankoffering brought in \$165.00 at the November 15 service. Also, #30 lbs of food and paper items was given to the Food Shelf.



The  
Christmas  
tree reminds  
us of the Christ;  
its top pointing to



heaven, its lights denoting  
the Light of the World, and all  
the presents beneath it reminding us  
that every good gift comes from above.

Thanks  
be to  
God.

An offering totaling **\$389.00** was received for the Food Shelf at the Thanksgiving Eve Community Service, November 25 held at St. Paul's.

### Jesus, Justice, Jazz: The Tour A Youth Day at Gustavus

In July, 37,000 participants gathered for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. On November 7 several of the Senior High members of St. Paul's and Trinity attended the Youth Gathering at Gustavus for a follow-up event to re-inspire the challenges of the July gathering. This was a fun-filled day for **Chelsea Gerholz, Brianna Hahn, Todd Pioske, Lindsey Karau, Alexandra Braun** and Youth Advisor **Bonnie Meyer and Pastor Bill.**

On November 20-21 all the members of the Confirmation Class of the two churches attended the Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar. Attending were **Nathaniel Frauendienst, Ryan Schuelke, Justin Korson, Branton Wibstad and Daniel Lindorff**, plus **Pastor Bill.**

Christmas is more than a visit to toyland.



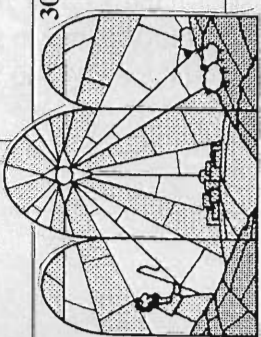
1. The piano in church was tuned Nov. 17.
2. The organ was tuned Nov. 20.
3. No worship services on Christmas Day. Special Christmas worship with communion will be on Sunday, December 27. No Sunday School.
4. A committee is working on remodeling the kitchen.
5. Volunteers are delivering "Meals on Wheels" during the month of December.
6. Different towel dispensers are being put in the bathrooms. Will be using rolls with tear offs.

### Youth in the News

**Katie Bauer** (11 grader) was one of the Senior High students chosen October's student of the month. **Sonja Sprandel** was one of 7 students in the 10th grade recognized at the first American Education Week banquet held at Arlington, November 23.

Helen used to give generous Christmas presents to her several grandchildren, but the kids never sent thank-you notes, despite the urgings of their parents. But then one year, things changed. Grandma sent a hundred dollar Christmas check to each grandchild. The very next day, each child came over in person to thank her. She was telling this to a friend of hers, who said, "How wonderful! What do you think caused them to become so polite?" "Oh," said Helen, "it was easy. This year I didn't sign the checks."

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			5:00 M&M practice 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Bible Study @ St. Paul's	7:00 pm Joint Council Board Mtg. at Trinity	7:30 pm Sibley Co. Choir at American Lutheran Church	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30 am Advent Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 am SS and Christmas practice	2:00 Faith Builders Team at Redwood Falls	12:30 Naomi Circle Luncheon/B. Study at Trinity 5:00 M&M practice 6:00 Confirmation				12 Noon Wiest-Hughes Wedding at Trinity
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30 am Advent Praise Worship 8:30 am SS practice 2:00 pm Caroling 6:30 pm C. Council			5:00 M&M practice 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Bible Study at Trinity			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30 am Advent Traditional Worship 8:30-10:00 am SS program practice			5:00 M&M practice 6:00 Confirmation	7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service and Children's Pageant		
27	28			31		
8:30 am Christmas Communion Worship Service 1:00 Autumn Lane 1:30 Oak Terrace					New Year's Day	
Peace On Earth						

2009